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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,004	01/29/2004	Mehul Nagrani	M4065.1004/P1004	2006
24998	7590	03/09/2005	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP			AUDUONG, GENE NGHIA	
2101 L Street, NW			ART UNIT	
Washington, DC 20037			PAPER NUMBER	
			2827	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,004

Applicant(s)

NAGRANI, MEHUL ET AL.

Examiner

Gene N. Auduong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yomita et al. (U.S. pat. No. 5,457,661).

Regarding claim 6, Tomita et al. disclose a column output delay circuit for a memory device (figure 2, column decoder circuits 121, 122) comprising: a first delay device (figure 2, lower delay device 24 of column device of second stage), the first delay device delaying a column enable signal for a first period of time; and a second delay device (figure 2, upper delay device 24), the second delay device delaying a column enable signal for a second period of time (col. 4, lines 36+).

Regarding claim 7, Tomita et al. disclose the circuit of claim 6, wherein the first delay device delays a sensing operation on an input/output signal line having less capacitance (figure 2, lower delay device 24 to the memory array is shorter than the other), and an accumulation of the first and second delay device delays a sensing operation on an input/output signal line having greater capacitance (see figure 2).

Regarding claim 8, Tomita et al. disclose the circuit of claim 6 further comprising a first column enable signal produced by the first delay device, and a second column enable signal produced by a combination of the first and second delay device (figure 2, column 4, lines 36+).

Claims 9-13 and 14-17 claiming the similar limitation as previously discussed in claims 6-8 but in the alternative way and with the further limitation such as a processor. A processor or

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controller is a must have limitation in any device to control the various function in the device.

Therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 6-8.

Regarding claims 1-5, the apparatus as previously discussed in claims 6-8, 9-13 and 14-17 would be performed the method as claimed. Therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to apparatus claims 6-8, 9-13 and 14-17.

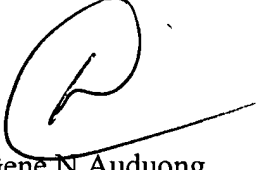
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gene N. Auduong whose telephone number is (571) 272-1773. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5-4, alternate second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoai Ho can be reached on (571) 272-1777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GA
February 22, 2005



Gene N Auduong
Primary Examiner
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